

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FOR: STATE ARA/NC FOR AMBSSADOR SHLAUDEMAN AND CU/ARA; USIA
FOR ILA/DILLON/ROGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO FOUNDATION

1. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING (CORDIPLAN), DR. GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ, CALLED IN DR. LEOPOLDA LOPEZ ON FIRDAY, NOVEMBER 21, AT 6:30 PM TO DISCUSS THE GMA SITUATION.

2. AFTER THE MEETING, DR. LOPEZ REPORTED TO THE IIE PRESIDENT WALLACE EDGERTON THAT IIE'S CONTRACT WILL BE RENEWED FOR ANOTHER YEAR. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ, THE CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED ON EITHER MONDAY OR TUESDAY.

3. LOPEZ' RESIGNATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT PEREZ BUT THE ISSUE IS NOT RESOLVED.

4. MAJOR CARACAS MORNING NEWSPAPERS DID NOT DISCUSS THE GMA SITUATION. ONLY THE DAILY JOURNAL IN ITS SATURDAY ISSUE MENTIONS THE UNCONFIRMED RESIGNATION REPORTS AND CONCENTRATES ON SOME OF THE "NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING BROUGHT IN ON THE PROGRAM AND
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THAT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS CAME TO REST WITH THEM". ANOTHER ALLEDGED

COMPLAINT MENTIONED IN THE NEWSPAPER IS THAT "EXTREMIST POLITICAL ELEMENTS HAVE HAD AN UNDUE INFLUENCE IN THE SELECTION OF STUDENTS."

5. "THERE HAS BEEN SOME ADVERSE PUBLICITY FOR THE PROGRAM ABROAD,--WRITES THE DAILY JOURNAL,--BUT DR. LOPEZ INSISTED THAT THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE COME UP IS RELATIVELY LOW CONSIDERING THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN ORGANIZED." DR. LOPEZ BELIEVES THAT "THE IEE HAD DONE A SPLENDID JOB IN HANDLING THE STUDENTS IN THE U.S.A."

6. EL MUNDO SEEMED TO ADD TO THE CONFUSION IN THE NOVEMBER 21 ISSUE WITH A STORY QUOTING THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DR. ARTURO MARINEZ GARZON. HE STATES THAT CERTAIN FISCAL PROCEDURES MUST BE CHANGED TO CONFORM WITH NATIONAL REGULATIONS. UNTIL SUCH STEPS ARE TAKEN, ONLY SPECIAL CASES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR GMA GRANTS. DEADLINE FOR THE REFORMS IS ET AT JANUARY 1, 1976. HE ALSO STATES THAT UNTIL THE CHANGES ARE AFFECTED, NO SERVICE CONTRACTS WILL BE RENEWED.
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